

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Upon viewing the assembly 100, as depicted in FIG. 2, it will be understood that because of the unique assemblage of components and particularly due to the position of the secondary guidewire housing 104 on the sheath 102 and under the stent 120 to form secondary opening 130a, the assembly 100 is provided with a unique shape which will prevent the stent 120 from being crimped or reduced onto the sheath 102 using a PRIOR ART stent crimper such as is shown in FIGS. 11a and 11b. Crimping devices, such as are describe in ~~[[US]] U.S. Patent No. 6,568,235 and U.S. App. No. 2002/0138966 A1~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,629,350 are equipped with crimping blades which define a variable diameter iris or diameter reduction chamber. The iris however has a constant shape as the blades are configured to apply a uniform radially inward force against the stent in order to crimp or reduce the diameter of the stent in a uniform manner. Because of the different profiles that different regions of the assembly 100 has, such as is illustrated in FIGS. 10a and 10b, it is clear that such a uniform reduction in diameter overall the stent would be detrimental to maintaining the performance characteristics of the assembly 100.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The crimping head 510 shown in FIGS. 12-14 is provided with a plurality of moveable blades 512 which define a variable diameter iris 514. The iris 514 is moved between an open position and a closed position by movement of the blades 512. The blades 512 may be moved or engaged to move within the crimping head 510 in any manner desired, including in a manner different or similar to that described in ~~[[US]] U.S. Patent No. 6,568,235, U.S. App. No. 2002/0138966 A1~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,629,350, and/or other references. To accommodate the unique shape of the assembly 100, one or more blades 512 is provided with a stepped shape area 516, or a portion of one or more blades 512 is removed to provide the blade(s) with the stepped shape area 516 desired.